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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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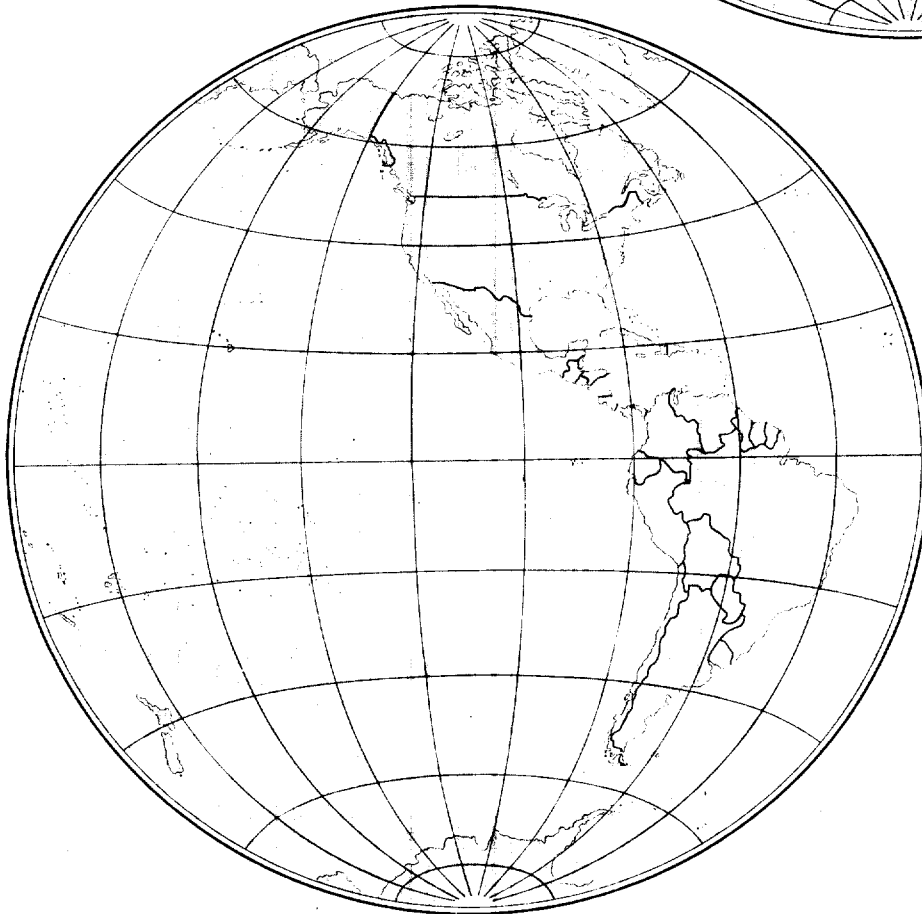
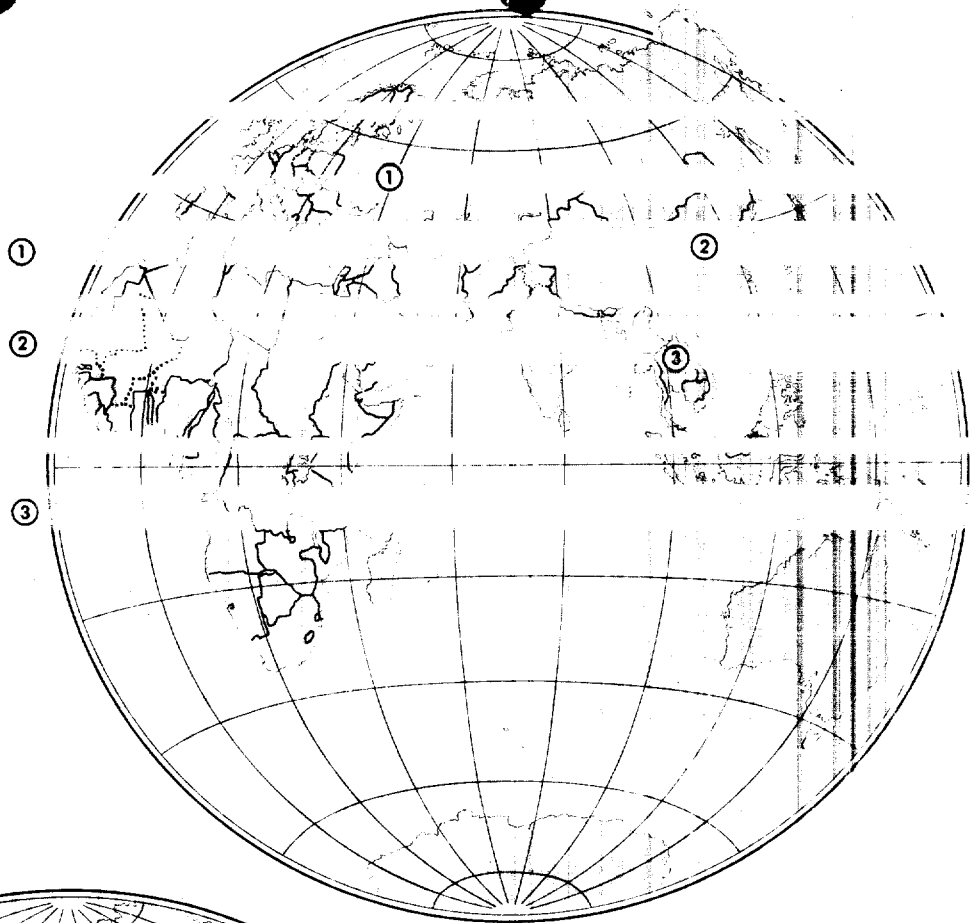
I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Moscow predicts "inevitable downfall" of Shah of Iran.

Communist China - Mao's successor as government chairman likely to be figurehead.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos - Internal dissension threatens government stability.



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR-Iran: Pravda has followed up Moscow radio's initial blast at Tehran over the recent breakdown in negotiations for a nonaggression pact with a pointed article comparing the Shah's policies with those of the Iraqi Government before the coup last year. The Shah is charged with failure to consider the will of the Iranian people in continuing his "perfidious" policy toward the USSR. This, Pravda asserts, will bring the rulers of Iran to an inevitable downfall--either through flight, as in the "Cuban fashion," or destruction, as in the "Baghdad style."

Meanwhile,

the Shah has been informed that the USSR would regard his signing of a bilateral agreement with the US as a "hostile act."

ok

Communist China: Chu Ten appears to be the likely successor to Mao Tse-tung as chairman of the Chinese People's Republic. Chu's candidacy has been discussed by the local citizens' organizations which would normally prepare public opinion for the change. The naming of Chu--a highly respected but rather unimportant party elder--would maintain the present balance among the top leadership, which might be upset if either Liu Shao-chi or Chou En-lai, Mao's principal lieutenants, were selected.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

ok

Laos: Dissension between conservative leaders of Premier Phoui's political party and young reformists in his cabinet is threatening the stability of the Phoui government.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Peiping Preparing for Transfer of Mao's Government Role To Chu Teh

[redacted] Chu Teh's candidacy for the chairmanship of the Chinese People's Republic was being discussed as early as mid-January by "street committees"--the local citizens' organizations which would normally prepare public opinion for such changes. The 72-year-old Chu, the present vice chairman and a highly respected but rather unimportant party figure, is a logical choice to succeed Mao Tse-tung in the largely ceremonial government post.)

(The naming of Chu to the chairmanship would maintain the balance within the Chinese top leadership which might be upset if either Liu Shao-chi or Chou En-lai, Mao's principal lieutenants, were selected. Chu has been described as a sort of "lubricating oil" among the leadership--a man who would be willing to remain a figurehead and permit the real political power to lie elsewhere.)

(Chu has been closely associated with Mao since the early days of the party and probably ranks next to him in popularity. Regarded as the "grand old man" of the Chinese Communist Army, Chu commanded Peiping's forces from 1928 to 1945, and nominally until 1954. He now is an elder statesman of the regime, occupying a number of senior party and government posts in which he appears primarily as a spokesman for Mao.) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laotian Premier Threatened by Political Bickering

{Dissension between conservative leaders of Premier Phoui's political party and young reformists in his cabinet is threatening government stability in Laos. The young reformers and army leaders are reported opposing the premier's efforts to fulfill his pledges to give executive and diplomatic posts to party members who voted him full powers on 14 January. Phoui fears an ultimatum from his party supporters either to fulfill his pledges or to resign from the party.}

{The reformists and their army supporters are withholding funds with which to satisfy the party leaders' demands and are urging Phoui to discard his conservative support. Although the reformers represent leadership and strength in the Vientiane area and within the army, the party represents the traditional local leadership, and the reformers have little grass-roots support. Phoui is reported tired and discouraged and anxious to avoid decisive action.}

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